"those enduring matinee idols"

A CHRONOLOGICAL LOOK AT SOUND SERIALS (1929 - 1956)

CHAPTER 15
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Flash Gordon (Larry "Buster" Crabbe) and *Queen Azura* (Beatrice Roberts) in FLASH GORDON'S TRIP TO MARS. Photo, autographed by Crabbe, is from episode #13, just prior to Azura's death. The story follows on the next page.

TEMI MASTHEAD: Bob Malcomson - *Editor & Publisher*
Jim Stringham - *Chief, Illustrations Division*

UNIVERSAL PRESENTS

FLASH GORDON'S TRIP TO MARS

Based On Cartoon Strip By
ALEX RAYMOND

THE CAST

Flash Gordon	Larry "Buster" Crabbe
Dale Arden	Jean Rogers
Emperor Ming	Charles Middleton
Dr. Zarkov	Frank Shannon
Queen Azura	Beatrice Roberts
Happy Hapgood	Donald Kerr
The Clay King	Montague Shaw
Prince Barin	Richard Alexander
Tarnak	Wheeler Oakman
Pilot Captain	Kane Richmond
Airdrome Captain	Kenneth Duncan

PART TWO
Continued From TEMI #14

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Directed by Ford Beebe
and Robert F. Hill

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Written for TEMI by
WILLIAM C. CLINE

PROLOGUE. At the conclusion of episode six (pg. 192), Flash, Dale, Zarkov and Happy enter the Forest Kingdom (home of the Fire People) hoping to enlist them as allies. However, when the adventurers probe deep into the strange forest they are attacked by the Fire People, who chase them and fling strange flaming bolts. As the bolts land, they form a blazing ring which surrounds the fleeing party. The Earth people are overcome by heat and smoke. (Editor's Note: Rear wall in this scene is a gigantic piece of canvas. Arrows in upper left corner point out where canvas is laced to a steel frame.)

CHAPTER 7 / THE PRISONER OF MONGO

All of the group collapse from the heat and smoke, but Flash forces himself to retain consciousness and drags each of the others to safety through a break in the fire circle. When all are revived, Flash discovers Dale missing and realizes she must have been abducted. He, Zarkov and Happy track the kidnappers through the forest, only to be ambushed and snared themselves. They are dragged before Toran, the King of the Forest People, who accuses them of destroying the image of their sacred god Kalu. (Mistakenly, they believe Happy committed the deed while taking a picture of the idol. Actually Azura did it by remote control.) Toran orders the group locked in a "death cell" and has a message sent to Ming asking his instructions. Elated, Ming sends a strato-sled to the Forest Kingdom to bring back Flash and the others as his prisoners.

Trapped in the death cell, the Earth party awaits its fate. Suddenly, Zarkov becomes aware of a strange noise coming from the cave wall. Investigating, they discover one of the walls has become very hot, and a mysterious, acid-like fog begins to seep in. They fear it is poison gas. Soon the wall crumbles and a tall, muscular man comes through.

"Barin!" exclaims Flash.

"Flash Gordon! I knew it had to be you," responds the intruder.

"I don't understand you," says Flash quizzically.

"I heard the guards say they'd captured some Earth people," explains the restored ruler of Mongo.

"How did you get through that rock wall?" asks Flash.

"With this vial of Amphitron. It'll eat its way through armor plate."

Barin tells the group that he learned of Ming's diabolical plan to draw Nitron from Earth and came to Mars to try and stop him. He explains that Azura's magic power lies in a sacred White Sapphire she wears; that in the Forest People's temple of Kalu is a matching Black Sapphire that renders Azura's magic powerless on whoever possesses it. They decide to try and escape and secure the Black Sapphire from the temple.

As Flash begins his daring attempt to secure the Black Sapphire he is discovered and attacked. Trapped in the altar grotto, he is at the mercy of the Forest People. High in a tree, one of them trains a deadly-looking light ray down upon him.

CHAPTER 8 / THE BLACK SAPPHIRE OF KALU

Happy arrives and knocks out the light ray with a Nitron gun he "borrowed" from one of the Martians. Joined by Zarkov and Barin, he and Flash fight their way clear of the temple and elude the Forest People. Having drawn the pursuers away from the temple, Flash and his friends double-back and take the Black Sapphire without a struggle.

Flash tells the Clay King of their adventure to the temple of Kalu, and shows him the powerful Black Sapphire. The King is jubilant.

"The Black Sapphire of Kalu!" he exclaims, "the only talisman on Mars that renders Azura's magic powerless!"

"Yes," responds Flash, "with it we can reach Ming and destroy the Nitron lamp with which he is devastating the Earth."

Later, Flash reaches Ming's powerhouse and gets the drop on Tarnak, who appears to be alone. He orders Ming's cohort to take him to the generators that furnish power for the Nitron lamp. Tarnak leads Flash into a cell-like room and quickly ducks out as Ming slams the door. With Flash locked in the compartment, Ming throws a switch that sends electric charges coursing from all parts of the tiny room. There is a blinding shower of sparks. Leering wildly through the cell's porthole, the evil despot of Mongo growls: "Nothing can sa . . ve Flash Go . . rdon now!"

CHAPTER 9 / SYMBOL OF DEATH

"We will now relieve him of the Black Sapphire of Kalu," gloats Ming triumphantly, as he turns off the switch and beckons Tarnak into the compartment.

But his triumph is short-lived and turns to anger as he sees that Flash has blasted him way out of the cell with a captured ray gun. Furious, the tyrant orders every building in the city searched for the hated Earthman.

Flash makes his way to the lamp and subdues the guards. He is successful in completely disabling the Nitron lamp, but is overcome by Tarnak and the soldiers before he can get away. Tarnak takes the Black Sapphire from him and drags him back to the enraged Ming.

Taking the Black Sapphire from Tarnak, Ming places it in a small black box, which he says will neutralize its power. He

tells Tarnak it will be useful in his future dealings with Queen Azura and orders his technicians to begin repairing the Nitron lamp, and to work around the clock until it is again ready to be used against his despised target, the planet Earth. In her throne room, Azura learns of Flash's capture and meets with Ming. He gives her a box presumably containing the Black Sapphire; but, when she opens it, she finds it empty. They have Flash brought in and Ming accuses him of having the Black Sapphire. Azura agrees to his execution and Ming orders Flash taken to the powerhouse and placed in the disintegrating room. Secretly, he dispatches Tarnak to the Forest People to tell them their Emperor has regained the Black Sapphire. [Editor's Note: During this episode, Azura becomes a temporary captive of the Clay King (see photo, pg. 192) — but she quickly escapes, putting to good use her powers of magic and ability to disappear.]

Luckily, Zarkov and Barin intercept Tarnak and force him to tell where Flash is being held. Outside the powerhouse Ming's guards detect them and commence firing. Inside, Ming starts the disintegrating ray moving toward the bound but valiantly struggling hero. *Flash Gordon seems doomed!*

CHAPTER 10 / INCENSE OF FORGETFULNESS

Dr. Zarkov and Prince Barin fight their way to the roof of the powerhouse and open the skylight over the disintegrating room. Dropping a line through the opening, Zarkov slides down and releases Flash before the ray can reach him.

Later, they return to the strato-sled and blast off for the Clay Kingdom. The Clay King is despondent when he learns that the Black Sapphire is back in Ming's control, but Flash pledges to fight Ming and Azura until the clay curse is lifted. Prince Barin also promises to continue his aid. He suggests that they try to reach the rocketship in which he came from Mongo so they can use it to fight Ming.

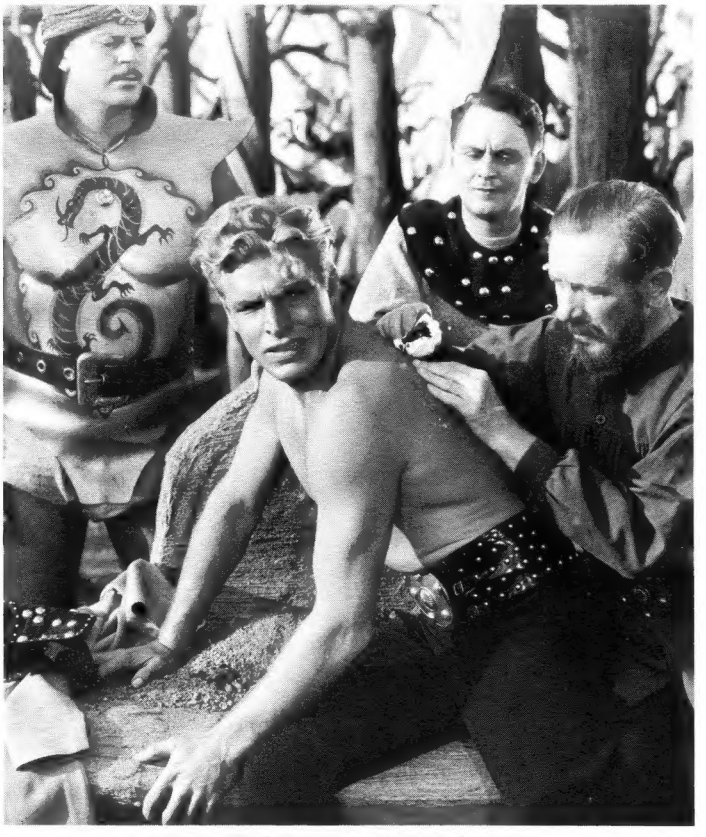
Barin leads them to the Forest Kingdom, where they split up to search for the rocketship. Dale is ambushed and abducted by the Forest People. Happy races to tell Flash, who sends him on to find Barin and Zarkov while Flash goes on to the temple of Kalu to save Dale.

At the temple, the Forest People have prepared Dale for a strange ceremony. The high priest explains that she will be made a slave of Kalu. As the ceremony begins, Flash and the others arrive and hear the high priest intone:

Toran (Anthony Warde) and Dale (Jean Rogers)

"Because your people have robbed the god Kalu of the sacred Black Sapphire, it is your punishment to stand in the incense of forgetfulness, and to serve him forever. All that you have known shall pass away, and henceforth you will be a temple maiden. You are dedicated to the service of the god Kalu. You must be ready to slay if necessary in his defense. You will repeat with me the invocation . . ."

As the ceremony continued, Flash tells the others to cover him while he rushes the surprised Forest People and releases Dale, but she does not recognize him. The Forest People attack, and Flash fights desperately. The high priest issues an order to the hypnotized Dale. She takes the sacred ceremonial dagger and raises it over her head. Advancing on the unsuspecting Flash from behind, she plunges the blade toward his back.



Barin, Flash, Happy and Dr. Zarkov

CHAPTER 11 / HUMAN BAIT

Dale stabs Flash, but luckily it is only a flesh wound. As Barin fights off the Forest People with a ray pistol, Zarkov and Happy drag the valiant hero to safety. Their attempt to rescue Dale has failed! While they were busy, the Forest People have spirited her away to their leader, Toran, who transmits a message to Ming telling him of Dale's capture, Ming sends soldiers for the girl.

Threatening the use of the incense of forgetfulness (which Zarkov identifies as a substance called Lethium, a mind-deadening drug), Flash, Zarkov and Barin force a forest warrior to reveal the whereabouts of Dale and the location of Barin's rocketship. They capture the ship and fly to Azura's city. Dr. Zarkov suggests they land near Ming's laboratory so he can prepare an antedote for the Lethium to give to Dale.

Flash and Zarkov make their way to the laboratory, meeting no opposition. While Zarkov works on the antedote, Flash searches for Dale. Turning on the televisor, he sees Dale apparently asleep in Azura's palace. Excitedly he urges Zarkov to stop what he's doing and they go to her rescue. Zarkov tells him to wait, as he is nearly finished with the antedote.

Watching the two unsuspecting Earthmen on his own televisor, Ming gleefully reveals his plan to Azura. "I've withdrawn all guards," he boasts slyly; "made the way easy for him; and left the materials at his hand. But, whe-en he-e mixes them . . . heh, heh."

As Dr. Zarkov adds the final ingredient and pours them together, there is an unexpected and sudden chemical reaction followed by a blinding explosion!

CHAPTER 12 / MING, THE MERCILESS

After the explosion, Tarnak reports to Ming on the televisor that Flash and Zarkov are dead. The despotic Emperor is elated and tells Tarnak that he and Queen Azura are coming directly to the powerhouse to view the bodies. As Tarnak turns from the televisor, Flash and Zarkov, who narrowly escaped death by throwing away the fatal mixture and diving for cover, surprise him and force him to reveal where Ming keeps the antedote for Lethium. Taking the antedote and using Tarnak as a hostage, the two Earthmen gain entry to Azura's palace and revive Dale from her hypnotic state.

Arriving at the powerhouse, Ming and Azura find no one. Suspecting they have somehow tricked Tarnak, Azura uses her magic to return to the palace, where she encounters Flash and Zarkov. They are attempting to escape with Dale, but Azura's guards stop them. Alone with Flash, the Queen again is impressed by his courage and expresses her admiration. Flash explains his peaceful mission and asks Azura to relent in her war on the Clay People. Ming returns and demands Flash Gordon's death. Azura intervenes and threatens to protect the Earthman with her magic.

"Magic?" scoffs Ming. "Why, you have no magic — as long as I possess this."

"The Black Sapphire!" cries Azura.

Flash and Zarkov suddenly attack Ming and Tarnak and retrieve the Black Sapphire. Using Azura as a hostage, they commandeer her personal strato-sled for their journey to the Clay Kingdom. The Death Squadron pursues, then closes in on the craft and forces Flash to land and seek cover in the rocky countryside. Overhead the squadron maneuvers into position and begins dropping bombs on the fugitives. Azura breaks away and runs into the open to escape. Flash dashes out to save her just as a bomb drops. A mighty explosion rocks the area!

CHAPTER 13 / THE MIRACLE OF MAGIC

Flash valiantly tries to reach Azura and narrowly misses being hit by the explosion's impact, but Azura is mortally wounded.

Here, take the White Sapphire," she offers, "you already have the Black Sapphire of Kalu. Destroy them both, and that will lift my spell from the Clay People. . ."

". . . Go, I tell you," insists Azura. "You can do nothing for me. Re . . remaining here will only re . . result in . . in your capture . . ." Queen Azura dies.

Knowing that her men will care for her body, Flash and Zarkov leave Azura and proceed to the Clay Kingdom. There they tell the jubilant Clay People of Azura's bequest, and they carefully destroy the supernatural gems side by side. The curse is lifted, and the Clay People become normal again.

Their joy is short-lived, though, as word comes that Ming has ordered total war against them.

Things look hopeless as Zarkov spots Ming's Nitron bombers on the horizon, but Flash reveals a desperate plan. Taking off in the strato-sled, he and Zarkov climb high above the altitude of the invading ships. Flash bails out in a bat-wing cloak and lands on top of the lead craft. Entering it through a gun-port hatch, he gets the drop on the crew, but they suddenly attack him. In the fight, the pilot is knocked unconscious. As Flash battles Ming's men, the heavily-loaded aircraft dives, out of control, straight for a high mountain peak!

CHAPTER 14 / A BEAST AT BAY

Flash valiantly subdues his opponents and pulls the huge bomber out of its power dive just short of fatal impact with the mountain peak. In control of the craft, he orders the ship's Captain to fly to the Clay Kingdom.

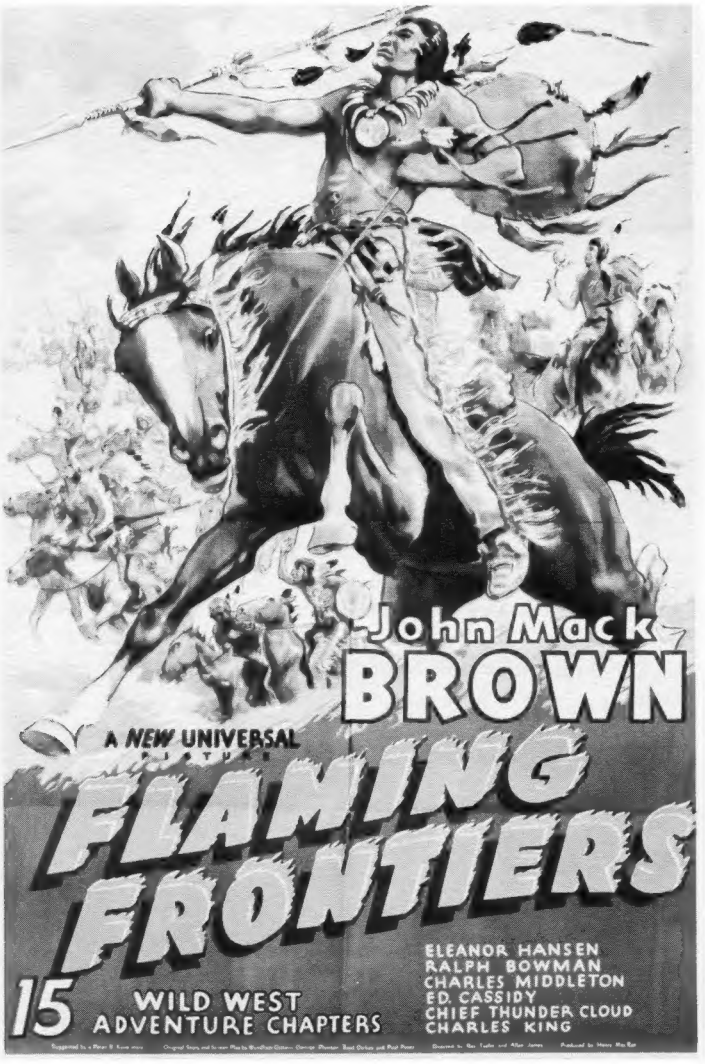
The captive Death Squadron Captain tells Flash that Ming has scheduled an important audience in Azura's palace and that it might be possible, with his help, to get within striking distance before discovered.

In the throne room, Ming has gathered the noblemen of Mars, and is about to have himself crowned King of Mars. As Tarnak prepares to crown the ruthless Ming, Flash suddenly appears and asks to address the assembly. Despite Ming's violent objections, he tells the nobles of Ming's treachery when he deposed Prince Barin and took over Mongo— purportedly to rule fairly, as he had just promised to do on Mars — and how he betrayed and then killed their own Queen Azura. Hearing this, the assemblage angrily rejects Ming. Threatened, the would-be King draws a weapon on Flash and dares anyone to come near him. With Flash as a shield, he backs into a secret passage.

"It'll do you no good to pursue me," he growls viciously. "Flash Gordon dies!"

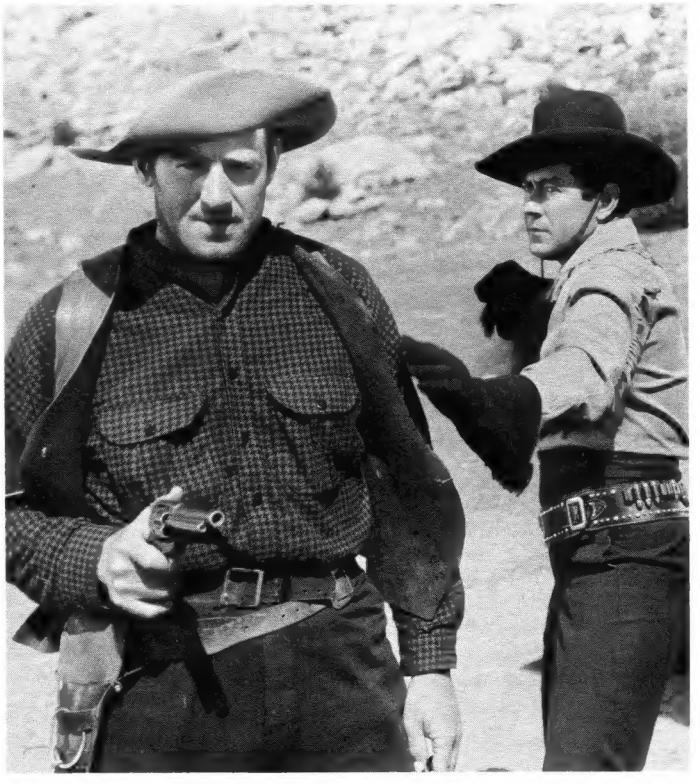
Ming is not fast enough for the agile Earthman. Flash moves quickly and disarms the evil scroundrel before he can carry out his threat. But Ming and Tarnak slip through the secret panel and escape to the powerhouse.

(Concluded on page 216)



John Mack Brown's fourth serial (and third for Universal — released in 1938) was directed by Ray Taylor and Alan (shown on poster art as "Allan") James, the same duo behind the cameras for Republic's *fabulous* DICK TRACY in '37. The plot was all too familiar, but served a useful purpose in holding together the exciting riding and fighting footage. Tex Houston (Brown), an Indian Scout, comes upon a pony express rider who has been shot by Indians. When he brings the rider's mail bag into town, he meets Mary Grant (Eleanor Hansen) and joins her in her fight against . . .

. . . Ace Daggett (Charles Middleton), Bart Eaton (James Blaine) and the killer Breed (Charles Stevens). Eaton is bent on marrying Mary so he can get at a gold mine owned by her brother, Tom (Ralph Bowman).



Before he became Republic Pictures' leading villain, Roy Barcroft (left) performed admirably in Universal serials, tho he was usually denied screen credit. Brown (right) donned a dark shirt on occasion so new footage for FLAMING FRONTIERS would match up with scenes used again from the previous RUSTLERS OF RED DOG (pg. 51) and WILD WEST DAYS (pg. 144).

CHAPTER TITLES

1. **The River Runs Red**
2. **Death Rides the Wind**
3. **Treachery at Eagle Pass**
4. **A Night of Terror**
5. **Blood and Gold**
6. **Trapped By Fire**
7. **A Human Target**
8. **The Savage Horde**
9. **Toll of the Torrent**
10. **In the Claws of the Cougar**
11. **The Half Breed's Revenge**
12. **The Indians Are Coming**
13. **The Fatal Plunge**
14. **Dynamite**
15. **A Duel To Death**

Adaptation of Serial for TEMI by
ERIC HOFFMAN and BOB MALCOMSON

CHAPTER TITLES

1. **Mysterious Island**
2. **Flaming Death**
3. **Tiger's Trap**
4. **Queen's Ransom**
5. **Pendulum of Doom**
6. **The Dead Fall** *
7. **White Man's Magic**
8. **Ambushed**
9. **Marooned**
10. **Camp of Horror****
11. **Valley of Skulls**
12. **Trail's End**

* Dead Fall was unexplainably spelled as two words. The dictionary says: *deadfall*

** Pressbook shows it as "Caves of Horror." Other material, including Catalog of Copyright Entries, lists title as shown.

PROLOGUE. HAWK was released by Republic Pictures on 12/3/38 and directed by William Witney and John English. William Lava was given his first screen credit for serial music — and it was the beginning of a series of five magnificent action musical scores. Producer was Robert Beche.

For the most part, HAWK was an outdoor epic and made skillful utilization of fine exteriors that added much to the adventure's excitement.

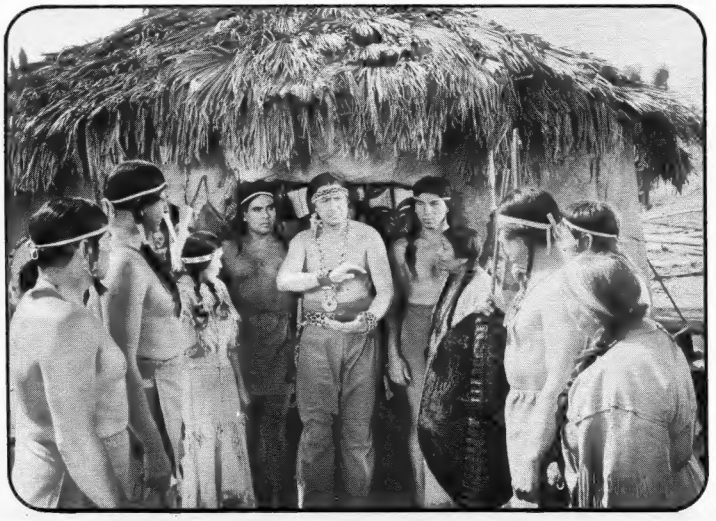
Herman Brix was perfect as Kioga, the hero— as was William Royle as Solerno, one of the villains. The single jarring note was Yellow Weasel, an Indian played by Monte Blue. Blue did a good job of acting but he was, physically speaking, miscast. A better selection would have been Frank Lackteen (who later played a similar type role in JUNGLE GIRL).

THE PLOT OPENS with the *Cherokee*, sailed by Lincoln Rand Senior (Lane Chandler), famed explorer and scientist, floundering in storm-swept water in the Arctic. Rand has been cruising the area in his quest to prove that a lost Indian tribe exists in this part of the world, unseen by white men. (1)

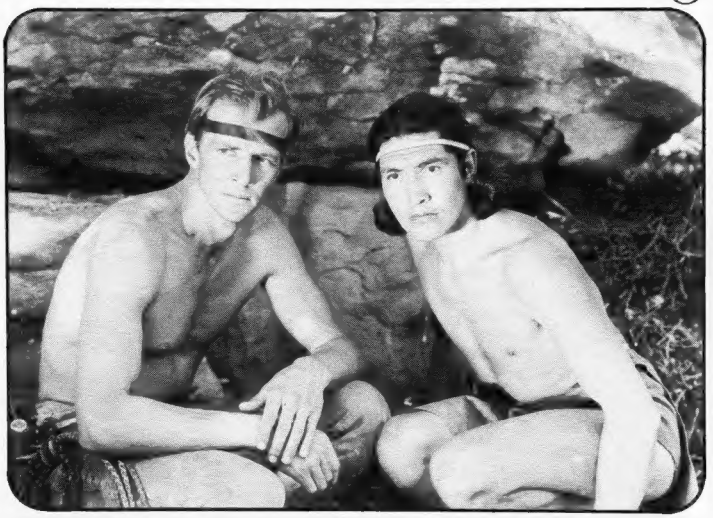
Accompanying Rand are his wife, Helena (Ann Evers), their infant son, and a loyal Indian servant, Mokuyi (Noble Johnson). The ship, carried toward breakers by the raging sea, is doomed. Rand, sure all is lost, but certain he knows the location of the lost island he has been searching for, writes a letter . . . (2)

. . . to his friend and colleague, Dr. Munro, and throws it overboard in a bottle. Rand and Helena are killed when the ship crashes into the breakers, but Mokuyi manages to escape with the infant Rand (really, Lincoln Rand Junior) making it to shore. (3)

Mokuyi sets up housekeeping in a mountain cave where he raises young Rand to manhood. Because of the young man's physical prowess, he becomes known as Kioga. But to the inhabitants of the island — the descendants of the lost tribe of Indians Rand searched for — he is also the "Hawk." (4)



Savage and primitive, the Indians believe that the island volcano god resents the white man's presence since the volcano erupted the day Mokuyi brought Rand ashore. The belief is fostered by Yellow Weasel (center, Monte Blue), island medicine man. (5)



Kioga's only friend among the tribe is Kias (Mala), a young crippled Indian Kioga saved from being killed many years prior. He serves as Kioga's eyes and ears on the tribe's doings. In a lesser role, Tawnee (played by canine actor Tuffy) provides companionship for Kioga. (6)

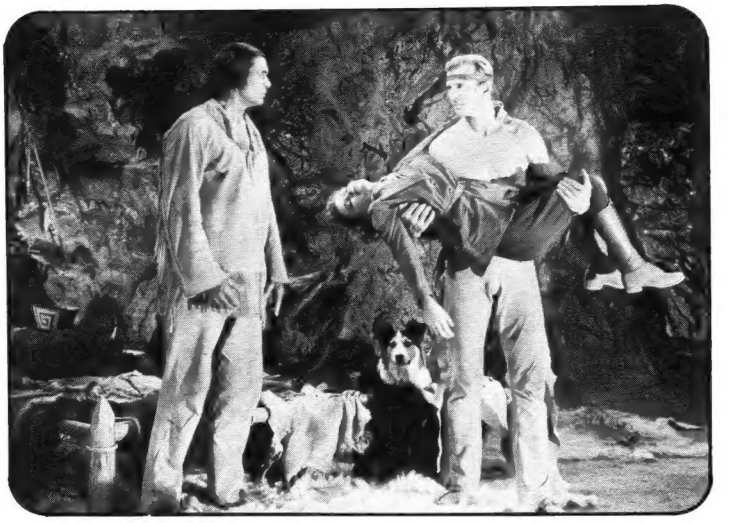
The scene shifts to the U.S.A. A gang of criminals, led by a man called Solerno, have their speedboat wrecked while fleeing the police. Making it to shore, Solerno finds the bottle Lincoln Rand set adrift 23 years prior. Reading the message, Solerno notes the phrase promising Dr. Munro a greater treasure than he can imagine. Assuming the treasure is money, Solerno visits Dr. Munro in the city and shows him the message. Munro, excited to hear from his old friend, gets an expedition together.

Expedition members l. to r are: George (Snowflake, r.n. Fred Toones), a servant; Dr. Edward Munro (Tom Chatterton); Tom (George Letz, a/k/a George Montgomery); Munro's daughter, Beth (Jill Martin); Captain Jansen (Fred Miller); Beth's suitor, Allen Kendall (George Eldredge); and Professor William Williams (Patrick J. Kelly). (7)

The party, following Rand's instructions, reaches the island via Munro's yacht — in the company of Solerno and his gang. Trouble brews when a gold bar is accidentally discovered. Solerno shows his true colors and demands "treasure." Munro tries to make him understand that Rand meant treasure of an archeological and scientific nature. During a melee, Captain Jansen and Tom are killed. (8)

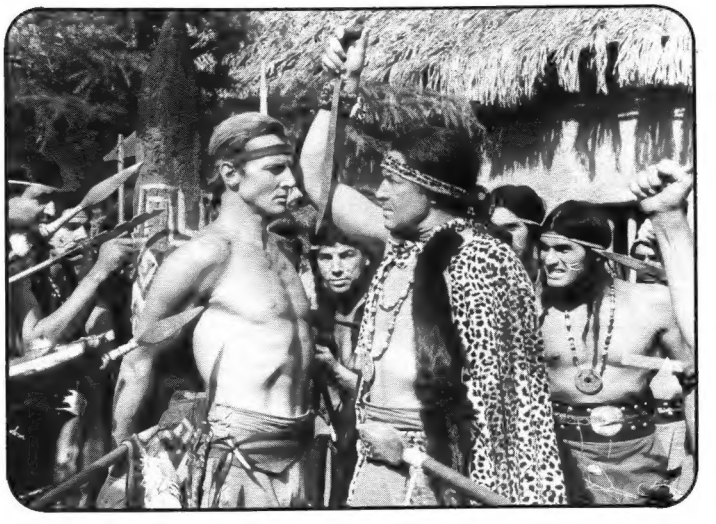
Solerno and his band do not believe Munro. They go back to the yacht in a dinghy, telling Munro he and his group will be marooned on the island until they give up the treasure. The gang consists of (l. to r.) Carl (Loren Riebe), Bart (William Stahl), Red (Earl Askam), Solerno (William Royle), Pete (Harry Tenbrook), Dirk (Dick Wessel), and Joe (Jerry Sheldon). Note: Scene shown occurred later. (9)

Back at the Indian village, Yellow Weasel, informed of the expedition's presence on the island, works the Indians into a frenzy. The natives attack. As the battle rages, Kioga and Mokuyi arrive and join the fight. Then the island volcano starts to erupt, causing an earthquake which sends a huge avalanche crashing down on the group. (10)



At the beginning of chapter #2, Kioga gets the group to duck under a convenient overhanging ledge or rock for protection. When the rockslide ends, Kioga grabs Beth and takes her to his cave. The rest of the expedition is captured by the Indians and taken to the village. (11)

Yellow Weasel is astonished at the sight of George. He orders him to drink a concoction that is supposed to turn him white. If the medicine works, George will not be considered an evil spirit. But if he doesn't change, the expedition will die by torture. (12)

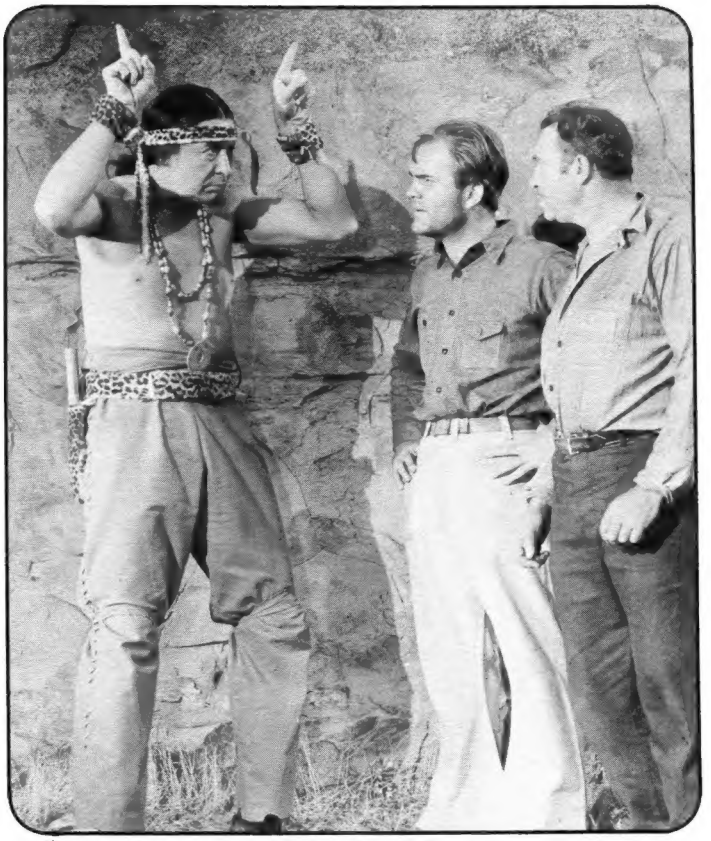


Back at Kioga's cave, Beth convinces Kioga he should return to the village to rescue the others. But he is apprehended after rescuing the captives and is almost burned at the stake. Kias manages to create a diversion and free his friend. Kioga escapes and liberates Dr. Munro from a war party and reunites him with the expedition at the cave. (13)

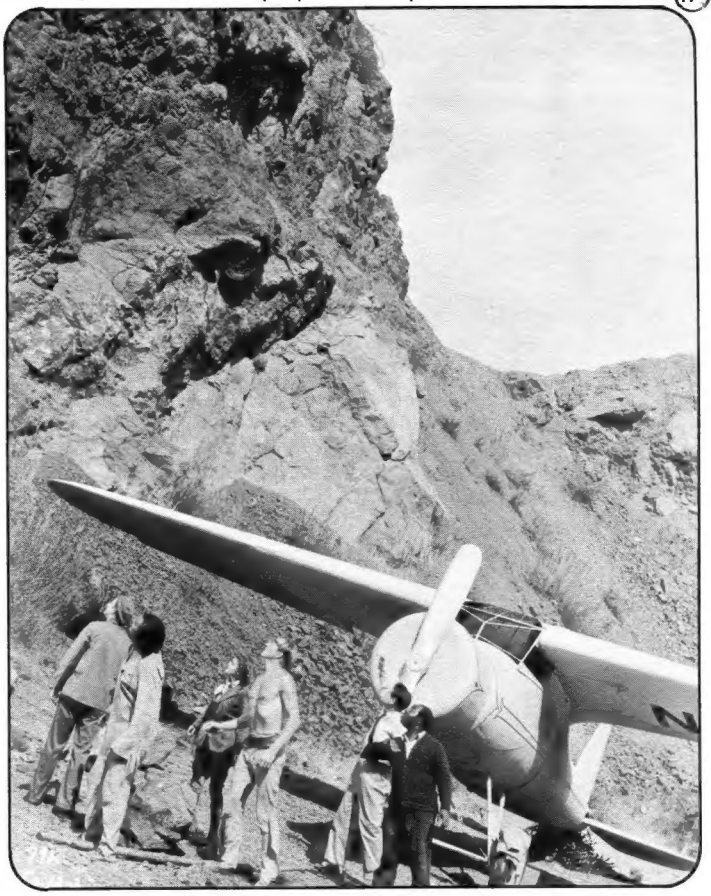
Later, Beth is captured by Solerno and his men and taken to the yacht. He contacts Munro, demanding the "treasure" in exchange for Beth. Kioga shows the expedition the "treasure" — gold belonging to his late father. The gold is given to Solerno, but the wily criminal reneges on his agreement. (14)

Kioga is determined to save the girl, and at night swims out to the yacht. (By now the expedition is aware that Kioga is Lincoln Rand's son.) Beth is saved — and after she and Kioga leave the yacht, Solerno and his men set sail. The expedition figures it is marooned. (15)

At the wind-up of chapter six, Kioga almost meets his death when knocked out beneath an Indian spiked deadfall. But he escapes by grabbing a stake and jamming it under the trap before it can impale him. (16)



As the story progresses, it is learned that Solerno has only moved the yacht to the opposite side of the island. But both the expedition and Solerno and his gang are marooned when the vessel is subsequently blown-up. Yellow Weasel (left) makes a pact with Dirk and Solerno. (17)



Kioga and his friends flee to the Valley of Skulls. There they find the body of a famed aviator who vanished many years prior while trying to fly over the North Pole. Also found is the flyer's airship, still intact. Beth (an expert pilot) checks the plane and finds it airworthy. (18)

Kendall, jealous of Beth's attentions toward Kioga, becomes desperate to escape the island. He attempts to eliminate Kioga and Kias. Thwarted, Kendall is confronted by Kioga and attacks him, only to be beaten. He walks off and is later killed by a masked figure.

Attempting to save Kioga from a spear thrown by the mystery figure, Kias is killed. Tawnee attacks the killer and rips off his mask to reveal Yellow Weasel. He and Kioga have a final battle with knives — and Yellow Weasel drops to his death from a cliff. (19)

At the valley entrance, Solerno and his men are stopped by warriors who have learned of Yellow Weasel's death. A battle ensues and the pirates are attacked by the Indians. Note: Standing are Running Water (Jerry Frank) with spear and Storm Cloud (Iron Eyes Cody). (20)

Meanwhile, a makeshift airfield has been cleared. Kioga, Mokuyi, Dr. Munro, Professor Williams, George and Tawnee escape in the plane — with Beth at the controls, maneuvering it thru a narrow gorge in the valley. And not too soon. The volcano erupts, destroying the Indians and the remnants of Solerno's gang. Beth receives her fade-out kiss not from Kioga, but Tawnee.

THE END

EPILOGUE

HAWK was adapted freely (*very freely*) from a well constructed, superbly paced story by William L. Chester, first published in 1935. But strange are the ways of screen play writers who adapt novels to motion pictures. If you read the book, you could reasonably conclude that writers Barry Shipman, Rex Taylor and Norman Hall selected only those plot elements that suited their fancy and discarded the rest in favor of their own creations.

For illustration. Using the 287 page paperback edition of HAWK published by Ace Books, Inc. as a basis, here's what actually transpired.

Mokuyi is a "polished and educated Indian" who is stranded with Dr. Lincoln Rand and his wife, Helena, on the *Cherokee* (a floating infirmary) when the battered ship, adrift in the Arctic Sea, is grounded in a remote region of the world. James (not Edward) Munro was not invited on the expedition because of his affection for Helena.

The trio become captives of uncivilized Indians, who prove to be friendly — that is until Yellow Weasel, "a young and ambitious savage, but recently inducted into the office of witch-doctor" becomes resentful of Rand's superior medicine.

Not too many months have passed before Helena Rand gives birth to a boy-child, Lincoln Rand, Jr. When the child is six weeks old, Mokuyi gives a feast in the family's honor — during which the child is christened (by the Indians): "Kioga, the Snow Hawk. This name was chosen for two reasons: his skin was pale, and one of those fierce white birds of prey had hovered over the village that morning."

Before the day is out, Lincoln and Helena are killed by followers of Yellow Weasel (page 31).

During the same barbaric attack, Mokuyi and Awena (his wife) lose their own son — "but by some miracle the child (Kioga) lay unharmed and smiling amid that red and smoking saturnalia of death." Mokuyi and Awena become his foster parents.

When Kioga is twelve, Mokuyi and Awena fall victims to Yellow Weasel and his "secret Long-Knife Society." They depart from the story on page 94. Six pages later Kioga kills Weasel.

When Kioga is twenty, he discovers a yacht, the *Alberta*, has entered his forgotten land. It is obvious it has been thru a violent storm and blown off course. The ship was enroute to Nome, Alaska, bearing Captain Allan Kendle (not Allen Kendall), his fiancee Beth LaSalle (no relative of Munro), and Beth's brother, Daniel, when seized by pirates at sea under the leadership of Manuel Salerno (not Solerno).

Salerno enters the story on page 176 and is knifed to death by his lieutenant, Mendez, on page 184 — prior to the *Alberta* reaching land.

Kendle's role is prominent in the last half of the book. When he is captured by Indians, Kioga is reluctant at first to rescue him because of his lust for Beth. In time the tables are reversed. Only when Kendle has an opportunity to save Kioga's life, he deserts him for dead.

It is the *Alberta* that is used by Kioga, Beth, and company, to start them on their journey back to civilization. Later Kioga vanishes thinking Beth loves Kendle. When the girl discovers Kendle's deception, she leaves him and facing "the risk of hunger, snow-blindness, freezing" departs in search of Kioga.

Dr. James Munro and Kioga do not come face to face until page 267. And tho Munro comes into the story occasionally in his search for the elder Rand, his role is miniscule.

Kias is deaf, and not lame as in the serial. Also, much is made of bears. Their absence from the chapter-play is a sorry omission.

This Epilogue is not an indictment of the screen play, since the serial did have many winning sequences and cliffhangers not found in the novel. It is presented here for reasons of comparison.

Columbia trade magazine advertisement from "Motion Picture Herald" dated October 15, 1938.

Photos and Captions / JAMES A. STRINGHAM

Originally announced under the title *The Spider - Master of Men* from the name of the pulp magazine which was the source of the serial, it became THE SPIDER'S WEB during production. (Editor's Note: Release of WEB in 1938 was *preceded* by THE GREAT ADVENTURES OF WILD BILL HICKOK, which will be discussed in TEMI #16.)

●

For the record: Let it be noted that once, just once, a *black clad hero* battled a *villain in white*. The Spider was, however, technically at least, a criminal himself.

CHAPTER TITLES

1. Night of Terror
2. Death Below
3. High Voltage
4. Surrender or Die
5. Shoot to Kill
6. Sealed Lips
7. Shadows of the Night
8. While the City Sleeps
9. Doomed
10. Flaming Danger
11. The Road to Peril
12. The Spider Falls
13. The Man Hunt
14. The Double Cross
15. The Octopus Unmasked

Columbia was able to capture the flavor of the violent crime pulp magazines in this fifteen episode thriller. A madman threatened a great city and possibly the nation by striking at key industries. Certainly not a fanciful plot. The reality of such a threat can be seen in today's newspaper stories. Opposing him was The Spider, often seeming equally maniacal, who fought crime by killing criminals. The fast pace of the serial was accentuated by a narrator who screamed an hysterical opening and closing announcement for each chapter.

The number of killings required an unusually large cast, including what must have been a record flow of heavies to be mowed down by The Spider's forty-fives. Seen on occasion were serial regulars Tom London, Edmund Cobb, Ernie Adams, Lane Chandler and Al Ferguson. Gloria Blondell and Nestor Paiva appeared briefly.

The Octopus — grotesque, seemingly crippled criminal genius — attacks industries vital to the survival of the city. He seeks to control them thru subordinates - or destroy them. A false arm is part of his costume, and, beneath it, he grips a hidden gun.

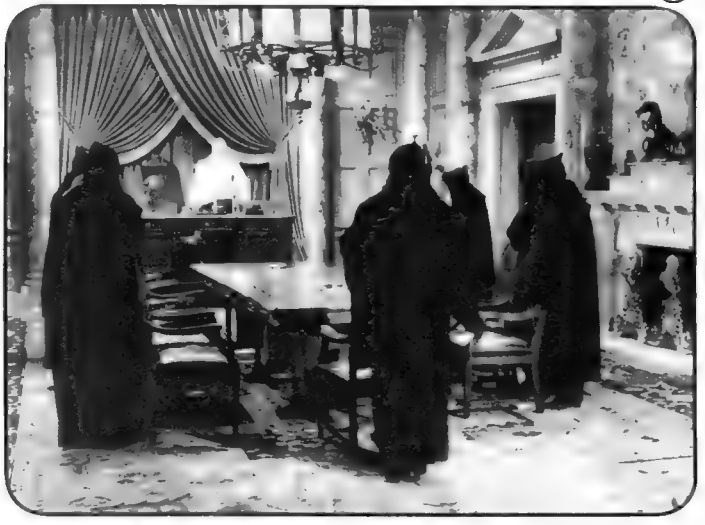
Appearing to battle him is The Spider, an equally sinister figure whose ruthless slaughter of criminals has left him a target for both the police and the underworld. Here, he descends to a power plant to attack *Octopus* henchmen attempting to sabotage the city's power supply.

As *The Octopus'* threat becomes apparent, worried industrialists and others concerned seek protection from police commissioner Kirk (Forbes Murray, seated at desk). Shown clockwise are: Roberts (Byron Foulger), player Ed Mortimer, Chase (Charles Wilson), a player, Fire Captain (James Carlisle), and Mason (Gordon Hart). (1)

The baffled police are aided by amateur criminologist Richard Wentworth (Warren Hull). His group of crime fighters includes his fiancee Nita Van Sloan (Iris Meredith) and Ram Singh (Kenneth Duncan), who is chauffeur to Wentworth — and to The Spider, a role Wentworth assumes when the confines of the law prevent effective dealing with crime. (2)

Dick has perfected yet a third identity. As safe cracker Blinky McQuade, he is accepted by the underworld. Here, he learns vital information from Octopus agent Martin (Lester Dorr) . . . (3)

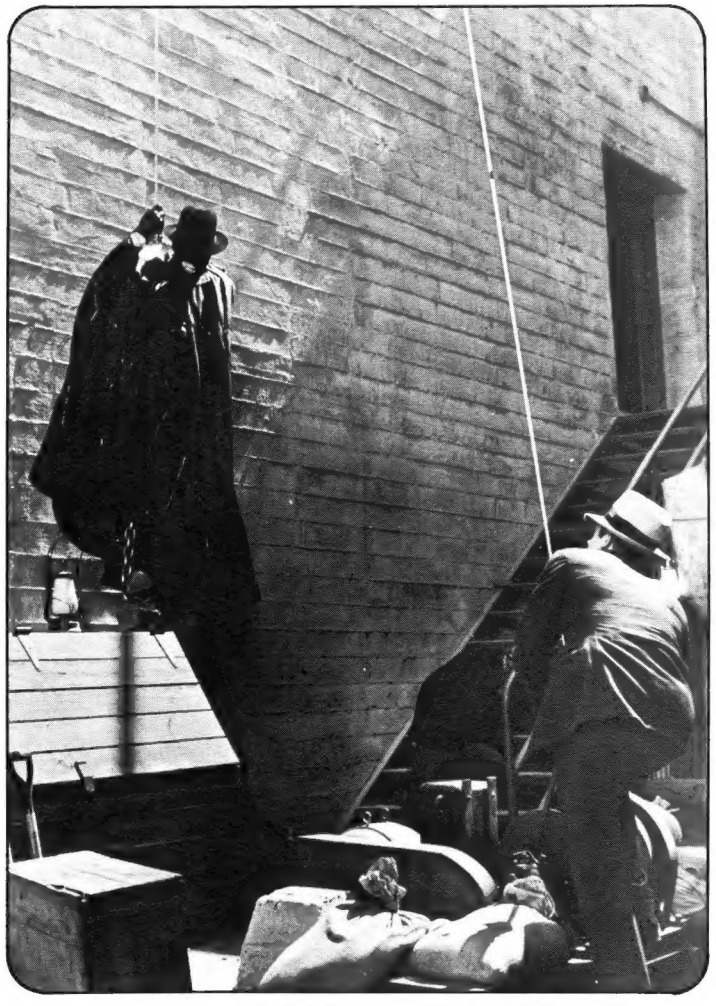
. . . and The Spider succeeds in foiling another attack on the beleaguered city. (4)



The Octopus (in his secret chamber) orders the death of Roberts, who falls before a bullet from his "third arm." He then moves to take over Roberts' bus line and orders his men to attack Wentworth and his associates. (5)

Dick is immediately suspicious of Adams, new head of the company. He and another aide, Jackson (Richard Fiske), disguise themselves as telephone repairmen to bug his office. The secretary is actress Beatrice Blinn. (6)

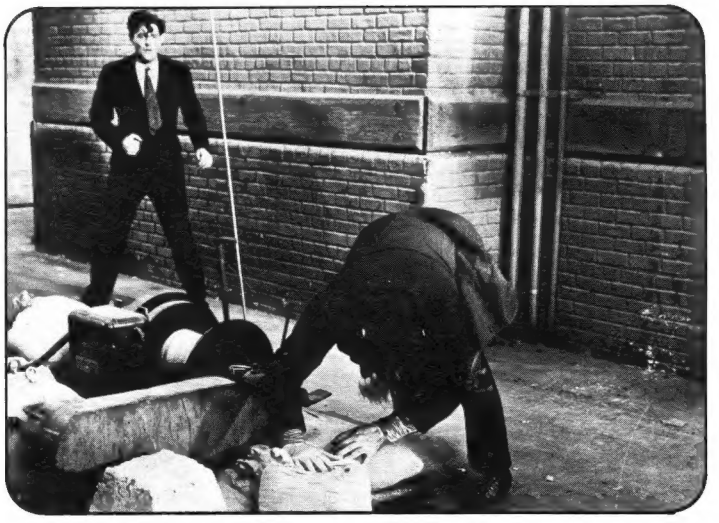
They learn that the Roberts Transport Building has become an *Octopus* headquarters — and hear Nita brought in! Dick rushes there as The Spider and, with Jackson, overpowers a watchman. (7)



Jackson operates a hoist which will raise The Spider to the roof for a surprise attack. At the receiver, Ram Singh is horrified to hear the voice of *The Octopus* order the room electrified. To touch any metal object will mean death for The Spider! (8)

Ram Singh rushes to warn Dick. A thug, meanwhile, has jumped him outside the room. The Spider hurls him against the metal door to see him die in a blast of electrical energy! (9)

The Spider dons insulated gloves to enter the room, then uses the thug's corpse as a shield. He frees Nita and locks the *Octopus* men in a vault. As they escape to the hoist, however, more heavies appear below. (10)



Jackson fights two gangsters at once. As he knocks one to the ground, another is about to shoot him. The falling heavy strikes the hoist release! Nita and The Spider hurtle from the rooftop! TO BE CONCLUDED in TEMI #16. (11)

CHAPTER 13

NECROLOGY OF SERIAL PERSONALITIES

A number of people who brought so much enjoyment to serial enthusiasts passed away during 1971/72. Some of those not previously mentioned in TEMI's necrology include. . .

		Died	Photo
Selmer Jackson	(?)	3/30/71	Pg. 112
Carleton Young	(64)	7/11/71	Pg. 44
Frances Robinson	(55)	8/15/71	Pg. 181
Raymond Hatton	(84)	10/21/71	Pg. 95

JOHN LITEL, 79, passed away on 2/3/1972. He appeared as *Spencer Merlin*, a heavy, in DON WINSLOW OF THE NAVY (Univ., '42). Litel is at left with Ethan Laidlaw. He was probably best remembered as the real estate boss of Bob Cummings in the T.V. series bearing Cummings name.

WALTER SANDE, 63, collapsed outside Chicago's O'Hare Airport while on a trip from his home in California. He was dead on arrival at Resurrection Hospital 2/22/1972. Sande was Lt. "Red" Pennington in the two "Don Winslow" serials. Photo is from the re-issue. Behind Sande (seated) is Philip Ahn.

KENNETH (KENNE) DUNCAN died of a stroke at age 69 on 2/5/1972 in Hollywood. He played, and played them all well, a supporting role in too many serials to list here. Duncan also appears elsewhere in this chapter as Ram Singh in THE SPIDER'S WEB.

ROBERT LOWERY, 57, had a fatal heart attack on 12/26/1971. He starred in several serials including BATMAN AND ROBIN (Col., '49). The above scene is from MYSTERY OF THE RIVER BOAT (Univ., '44). L. to R. are Eddy Waller, Lowery, Marjory Clements and Oscar O'Shea.

ROBERT "BUZZ" HENRY, who played the juvenile role in HOP HARRIGAN (Col., '46), died 10/1/1971. Age at time of death TEMI does not know, but he would have been in his late 30's or early 40's. L. to R. are Sumner Getchell, Henry, William Bakewell and John Merton.

THOSE ENDURING SERIAL FANS

Letters from TEMI fans are most welcome. However, the information supplied in these columns by readers is based on their opinions. The editor does not necessarily purport the info to be complete, exact or accurate.

CONCERNING TEMI #14

I must tender several corrections regarding the DICK TRACY RETURNS write-up (pg. 186). The youngest member of the Stark clan was Kid, not The Kid. There is no "ensuing battle" or "wild melee" during the armored car robbery. Ron gets the drop on Champ and Trigger, as illustrated in still #3, but is plugged by Kid, whom Ron doesn't see. Kid does, indeed, double back and shoot Ron again, but the agent is rushed to an iron lung and a doctor pronounces that he will "make it." Later, Pa Stark, posing as a janitor, skulks into Ron's room at the hospital and pulls the iron lung power cord, resulting in the G-Man's death. Tracy doesn't arrange to fly the taxi driver out of town. The driver fled to Salt Lake City but was captured and was being flown back to the coast. Tracy doesn't leap before the car/truck crash in chapter three; he rides it out.

Woody Langley
Studio City, Calif.

The bearded gentleman shown with The Lone Ranger on page 199 is Tex Cooper. He was in literally "hundreds" of westerns in the '30s and '40s but rarely had anything to say. Does anyone have any biographical material on him?

Don Daynard
Unionville, Ontario

The ship's officers in photo #10 (page 196) are (left) Edward Cassidy (1892-1968) and Josef Swickard (1866-1940). Cassidy was best known as a crooked Sheriff in serials, such as THE ROARING WEST, WILD WEST DAYS, FLAMING FRONTIERS, WINNERS OF THE WEST and SON OF ZORRO. Swickard was remembered as Marcelo Desnoyers (Rudolph Valentino's father) in "Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse" (M-G-M, 1922). He appeared in eight sound serials.

William John Ryan
Bronx, New York

* * *

ENIGMA

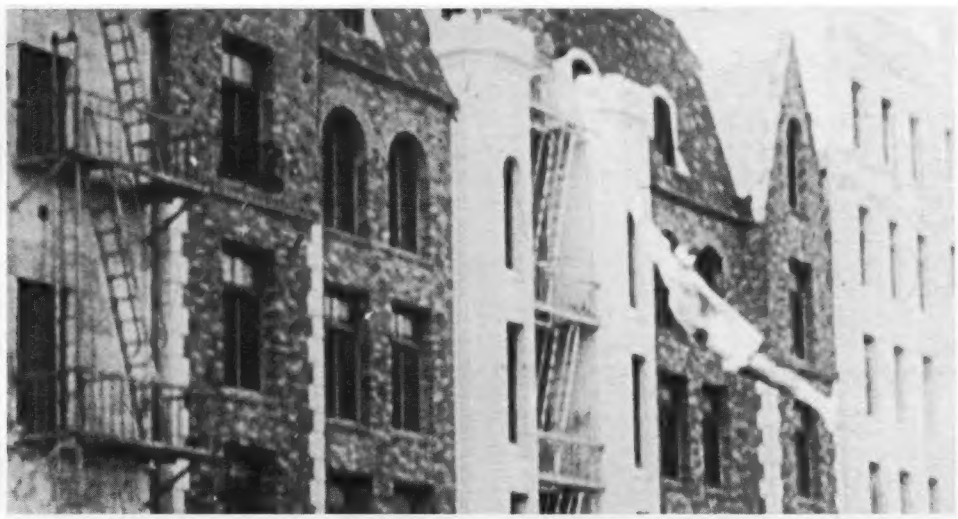
Does any TEMI reader know if Edmund Cobb was in the '34 Richard Talmadge serial, PIRATE TREASURE?

Bertil Lundgren
Gothenburg, Sweden

Who are Gil Pickering and Wally Rose? What serials did they do stunting for? Also, would like some information on Jimmy Fawcett.

James Pazienza
Chicago, Illinois

TEMI / EDITOR & PUBLISHER • ROBERT M. MALCOMSON
CHIEF — ILLUSTRATIONS DIVISION • JAMES A. STRINGHAM



PREVIEW. Soon you'll be reaching the 1941 period at Republic and covering ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN MARVEL, probably the greatest serial made by the studio. We thought you might be interested in these 35mm frame blow-ups.
Ascending skyward is Tom Tyler as *Marvel*. (Actually, this is a costumed dummy travelling on guide wires.)

Descending towards camera is stuntman David Sharpe (in Tom Tyler's stead as *Captain Marvel*).

For gawd's sake, keep the TEMI project going right thru the end. Errors can always be corrected, and in the extremely complex field of chapter-play history it's surprising that so few seem to occur in TEMI.

A.M. Willis Bernard Crouse
Harold Seacombe Neville Brown
London, England

* * *

EDITOR'S NOTES

David Sharpe, currently, is stunting for Efrem Zimbalist, Jr. on T.V.'s "The F.B.I." *** Add to those names already mentioned who helped us with this chapter: C.M."Parky" Parkhurst, Jim Shoenberger, Jerry Mezerow, Ed Billings, John Stoginski and Angel Gutierrez *** The masthead "snapshot" photos on pg. 201 were taken by "Parky" *** Larry Crabbe was interviewed (pg. 193) in East Lansing (not Lansing), Michigan.

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(Continued from page 204)

Later, a terrified Tarnak flees the powerhouse and tells Flash that Ming has gone mad and has set out to destroy Earth and then Mars itself.

When the opportunity presents itself, Tarnak turns on Ming and locks him in the disintegrating room.

"Hold on, Tarnak," Flash intervenes. "No matter what Ming's done, you can't kill him this way."

"If any of you interferes with me, I'll kill you," threatens Tarnak, holding a ray gun. He starts the disintegrator.

As the rays intensify, Ming's rebellious lieutenant stares hypnotically through the porthole at the writhing Ming. Flash jumps Tarnak and overpowers him as Zarkov lunges for the disintegrator controls and turns off the machinery.

"Too late, Zarkov," announces Flash emptily. They stand and view an empty chamber.

Just then Prince Barin arrives with the triumphant report that he has bombed the powerhouse and destroyed the Nitron lamp for good. With that diabolical device in ruins, the former Clay People restored, and Ming the Merciless no longer a threat, the victorious party return to the Clay Kingdom to prepare for their journey back to Earth.

Leaving the former Clay King in command of the Martians and Prince Barin as ruler of the Forest Kingdom, Dr. Zarkov, Dale Arden and Happy Hapgood join the gallant hero, Flash Gordon, in the repaired rocketship for the welcome flight home and a glorious reception.

THE END

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WANTED: Material on the following serials — *The Shadow, Tarzan the Fearless, Son of Zorro, Tex Granger, G-Men vs. The Black Dragon, The Masked Marvel.* Also, serial stills of Rick Vallin, Robert Lowery, Pamela Blake, Lorna Gray, Joan Woodbury, George Turner, and EVERYTHING on *The Mysterious Mr. M.* Contact: BERNIE JENKINS, 1301 Vermont Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

REMEMBER "The Merry Marvel Marching Society" TV cartoon show? The one starring Captain America, Thor, The Hulk, Iron Man, etc., etc.!!! If you have these shows on tape (in mint perfect sound) send me your listing and I'll buy 'um — for a reasonable price, that is! Please send listing to . . . JIMMY THORNTON, Apt. 11-E, 225 East 99th Street, New York, N.Y. 10029.

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